THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1937

COIN COLLECTORS BUY AT AUCTION

Early American Issues Sell Readily Up to $7 and $8.25.

They were selling money at the Washington Hotel last night and getting $6 and $7 for each dollar, but it was no come-on game.

It was an auction sale put on for the visiting numismatists (coin collectors to you, perhaps).

And you couldn't fool these delegates to the American Numismatic Association. They knew what they were buying.

Charles Kohen, the auctioneer, offered some small bronze Roman coins. The group in the roof garden auditorium didn't think much of these. They went for 15 cents each.

"And the grandeur that was Rome."

Neither was there much enthusiasm when Kohen held up a British New Guinea 1-penny piece bearing the likeness of King Edward VIII. Remember, the one that abdicated? This coin brought 25 cents.

Other "Edwards" Fare Better.

Another uncirculated Edward VIII penny and half penny, issued for British West Africa, brought 85 cents each. That was something. A silver medal struck off for the present Duke of Windsor did fetch $2. But an official coronation medal for his successor, George VI, brought $2.25.

The collection of Colonial and early American silver dollars stirred livelier bidding.

An issue of 1795, "with flowing hair and three leaves below the wing," labeled "very fine," sold for $6.50. For a "large eagle" dollar, coined in 1798, the bidding started at $7 and reached $8.75. By the time the auctioneer got to coins of 1842, the bids had languished and a sale of $2.10 was recorded.

The first half dollar, however, vintage of 1795, went for $6.

Odd Bids to Inexperts.

And so on. It was all a mystery to the uninitiated—the value of the various offers. You might have thought, for instance, that some yellowed metal minted for the Emperor Constantine was worth more than some commemorative 3-mark pieces put out by modern Germany, but you'd have been in error.

In the downstairs exhibit room another crowd haunted the more valuable and rarer cases of coins and currency and other curios which were not for sale. These included a sample of every coin ever issued by the United States, greenbacks and yellowbacks put out by banks gone and forgotten and a few odds and ends, such as Brigham Young's gold snuff box.

With a policeman in close attendance there was a caseful of contemporary currency, by courtesy of the Treasury. And these notes ranged in denomination from $1 to—yes, $100,000! There were $10,000 bills and $50,000 bills.

"Dead Weight" Money.

Well, if you did grab one of these big ones," the cop remarked, "it wouldn't be very safe to try to pass it."

Delegates to the Numismatic Association were scheduled today to visit the Smithsonian Institution and the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

The Smithsonian trip was to be made in the afternoon, with Theodore T. Belote, curator of the institution, showing the delegates through. Tonight, at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Alvin W. Hall, director, will be the guide.

Business sessions will continue tomorrow and in the evening the association's annual banquet will be staged. Guests of honor will be Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, director of the mint; Hall and Belote. Thomas H. Chapman will be toastmaster.

The convention is due to close Thursday, when, after a final business meeting, the 200 delegates, here from all sections of the country, will depart for their homes.

Aug-24-37

General B

ACCORD ON D. C.'S SHARE MAY SPEED WATER FRONT JOB

Local Sum May Be Paid in Installments as Work Progresses.

$68,000 INITIAL OUTLAY WOULD BE REQUESTED

Gen. Markham Could Start Improvements at Own Discretion.

Work on the $1,650,000 program for modernizing Washington's water front may be expedited as result of an agreement between the Budget Bureau and Maj. Gen. Edward M. Markham, chief of the Army Engineers, regarding the District's contribution toward the project, it was learned today.

Instead of the District being forced to pay the entire amount of its contribution—$389,000—in a lump sum, Commissioner Hazen said it had been agreed to accept payment in annual installments as work progresses. Under this arrangement, he said, the Commissioners would ask for an initial appropriation of $68,000 in the first supplemental bill passed in the new session of Congress.

The War Department policy is to begin rivers and harbors work only when the local community has put up the full amount of its contribution. Gen. Markham has a lump sum at his disposal, and it was pointed out he could start work when he saw fit on the District's water front improvements, leaving the local payment until later.

Hazen explained the payments might extend over the entire eight years of the program, or the District could complete payment of the $389,000 in "two or three years." The other payments would be provided in the regular appropriation bills.

The Engineers' program over a long period would provide the District with improvements long needed and sought. Expenditures for the first year of work would total $285,000.

No provision for the District's payment was made in the present budget, and the recent agreement will enable work to start at an earlier date it is hoped.

The entire program calls for the following improvements:

A yacht harbor with berthing space for 286 boats.

Two modern wharves for municipal use.

Three wharves for existing transportation lines and general service.

Construction of bulkhead walls.

Removal of old, dilapidated structures now being used.

Hazen said the first $68,000 payment, which he expects would be allowed in the next supplementary bill after Congress reconvenes, would run to July 1, 1938. It then would be possible to include in the 1939 appropriation bill, he explained, whatever amount the District would be expected to pay on the next installment.

DATE TO BE FIXED FOR POISON TRI[AL]

Mrs. Hahn May Learn Time of Case When in Court To-